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General

Macau, a part of China, is located in Eastern Asia, bordering the South China Sea and China.

The climate is subtropical marine with cool winters and warm summers.

The terrain is generally flat.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The unit of currency is the pataca, consisting of 100 avos.

Government

Macau is a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, Day of Portugal; June 10, June 24, August 15, October 5, November 1, December 1, December 8; and December 25, Christmas Day.

Industries

The main industries are clothing, textiles, toys, plastic products, furniture, and tourism to include gambling.

Languages

The official language of Macau is Portuguese. Cantonese is the language of commerce.

Pilotage

Pilotage is compulsory. Special Regulations are in force for boarding pilots in Chinese waters and additional information is set forth in Pub. 161, Sailing Directions (Enroute) South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand.

Regulations

The following regulations are in force within the waters of Macau:

- 1. No vessel may anchor in any fairway or channel without the permission of the harbormaster.
- 2. Ships arriving in the province must be reported to the proper authorities within 24 hours of arrival.
- 3. Masters of all vessels shall notify the harbormaster of date and time for their proposed departure, and except in special circumstances such notification shall be made not less than 6 hours prior to sailing.
- 4. No rubbish, trash, or ashes shall be thrown overboard within the waters of the province.
- 5. No ballast, solid or liquid, shall be thrown or pumped overboard within the waters of the province.

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A "Traffic Separation Scheme" for high speed vessels proceeding between Macau and Hong Kong has been established in the approaches to Zhu Jiang. The limits of the scheme are indicated by two lighted buoys.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is HOTEL (-8).

U.S. Embassy

There are no U.S. diplomatic offices in Macau. The nearest U.S. Consul is reported to be situated in Hong Kong.